

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a laminar plate ~~adapted to be~~ generally coextensive with a lower surface of the mailbox;

means for securing the mailbox to the plate;

a one-piece, generally cylindrical sleeve secured to the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

means for securing the post within the sleeve.

2. (Original) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the laminar plate is rectangular and has a pair of long edges.

3. (Currently Amended) The bracket according to claim 2, wherein the means for securing the mailbox to the plate further comprises:

a flange on each of the long edges of the plate extending generally perpendicular to the plate; and

at least one fastener ~~adapted~~ to secure the flange to a corresponding flange on the mailbox.

4. (Original) The bracket according to claim 3 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

5. (Original) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the means for securing the post within the sleeve further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

6. (Original) The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

7. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges, the upper surface of the plate ~~adapted to be~~ generally coextensive with and adapted to support a lower surface of the mailbox;

at least one flange on a long edge of the plate, the flange extending generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flange to the mailbox;

a generally continuous cylindrical sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

8. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

9. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

10. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

11. (Original) The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the flange extends from each long edge of the rectangular plate.

12. (Currently Amended) A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges and a pair of short edges, the upper surface of the plate ~~adapted to be~~ generally coextensive with and adapted to support a lower surface of the mailbox;

a plurality of lightening holes formed in the plate

at flange extending along each long edge of the plate generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flanges to corresponding flanges on the mailbox;

a generally cylindrical, continuous, and one-piece sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

13. (Original) The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and  
a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement  
relative to the post.

14. (Original) The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.